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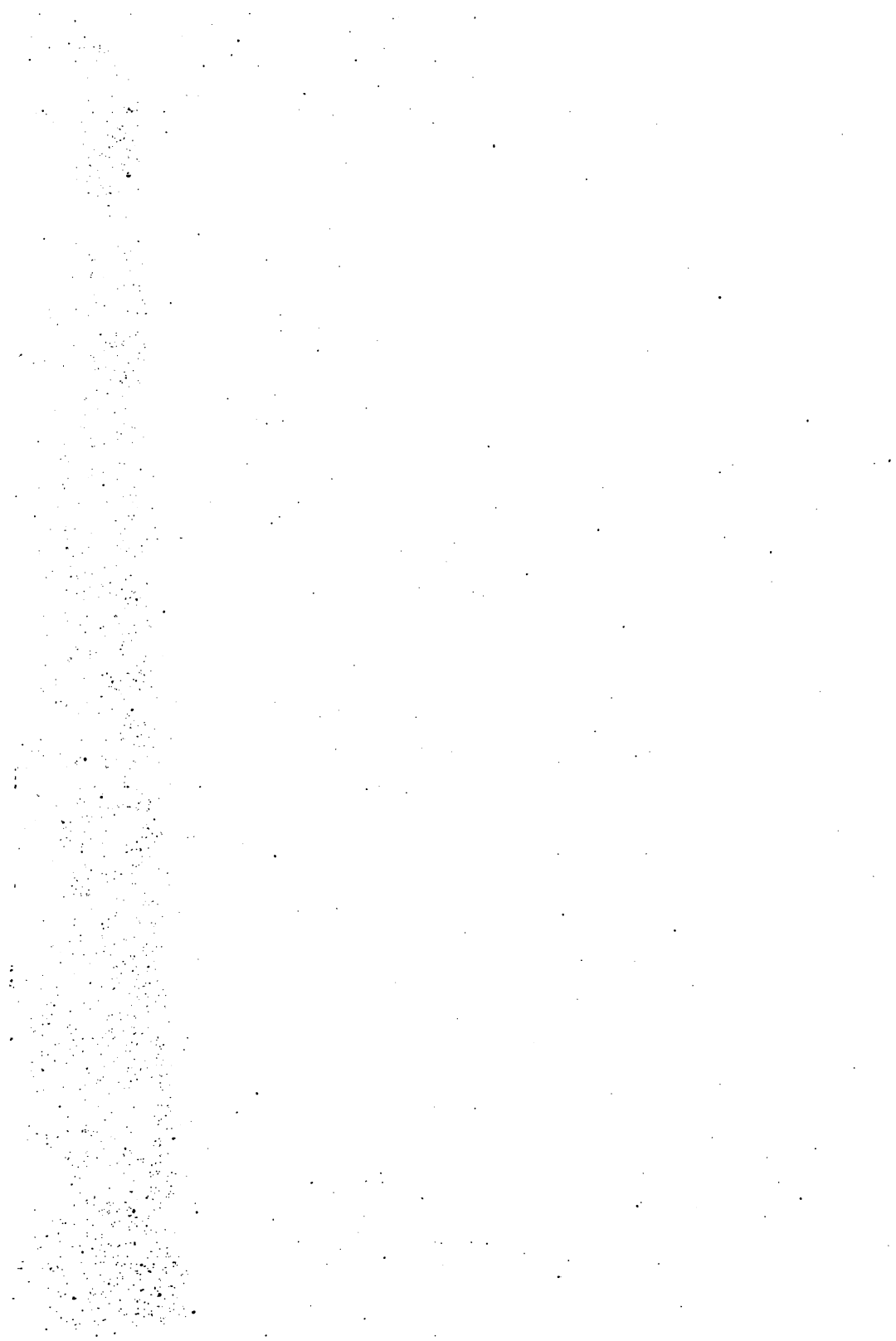
**JULIAN CROMMELIN VERPLANC**

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*By Charles Henry Hart.*

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# A DISCOURSE

ON THE

LIFE AND SERVICES

OF THE LATE

Gulian Crommelin Verplanck, LL.D.

DELIVERED BEFORE

THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA,

*On the Evening of May 5, 1870,*

BY

CHARLES HENRY HART,

Historiographer of the Society,

AND

Corresponding Member of the N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society; The N. E. Historio-Genealogical Society; The Long Island Historical Society; The Maine Historical Society, &c., &c., &c.

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*(Reprinted from the "New York Genealogical and Biographical Record" for October, 1870.)*

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1871, Aug. 5.  
Gift of  
Hon. Elias Loring,  
of Boston.  
(Feb. 1883.)

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY,  
No. 64 MADISON AVENUE.

At a regular meeting of this Society, held on the 11th of June, the following preamble and resolution were passed upon the motion of C. B. Moore, Esq. :

"Whereas, This Society being informed that one of its corresponding members, Mr. Charles Henry Hart, of Philadelphia, has recently read a brief memorial of the late Gulian C. Verplanck, before the Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia, which is more of a genealogical character than any made here, and which ought to be preserved.

"Resolved, That Mr. Hart be requested to furnish a copy of his Address for the archives of this Society; and that it be referred to the Publication Committee, to print the same, or such part thereof as the Committee may deem proper."

*Extract from the minutes.*

JOHN S. GAUTIER, Recording Secretary.

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# GULIAN CROMMELIN VERPLANCK.

BY

CHARLES HENRY HART.

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A DISCOURSE DELIVERED BEFORE "THE NUMISMATIC AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA," MAY 5, 1870.

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GULIAN CROMMELIN VERPLANCK, with one exception the last survivor of the justly celebrated Literati of old New York, died at his residence in that city on the morning of March 18th, 1870. As has been truly said by Griswold (*Prose Writers of America*), "In the veins of Gulian Crommelin Verplanck mingles the best blood of the Hollander, the Huguenot, and the Puritan," and I will introduce this brief memorial of his life with a sketch of his family history. The Verplancks may lay just claim to belong to the veritable Knickerbocker stock. The first of the name in this country, of whom any record has been kept, was Abraham *Isaacson* Verplanck, which being translated means simply Abraham Verplanck, son of Isaac. There is a family tradition that his name was Abraham *Jacobson* Verplanck, but it is unsupported by any evidence whatsoever, in fact it is amply proved to have been as first stated, by the records of the Old Dutch Church in New York, as preserved in Valentine's Manual, where the names and dates of baptism of several children of Abraham Isaacson Verplanck are given, and these the same as those of the traditionary Abraham Jacobson Verplanck.

Abraham Isaacson Verplanck came from Holland, according to the same family tradition, about the year 1640, and married "the widow Maria Ross, whose maiden name was Vigne;" she being a daughter of Guleyn and Ariantje [Cuvilje] Vigne. Whether this marriage took place before his arrival in this country, or whether it was a second one consummated afterwards, I am unable to say. The presumption is very fair that they were married here, and there is no evidence that he was a widower as well as she a widow, for which also there is no other proof than the aforesaid tradition. But certain it is that the second child of Abraham Verplanck was born January 1st, 1637, and named Guleyn, the same as her father, but whether he was born here or in Holland I do not know. From his christian name I should suppose him to have been her child, which if so and born in this country, which I also think most likely, would place the arrival of Abraham Verplanck here at an earlier date than that given, which undoubtedly was the case. He dropped the patronymic and was known as "Abraham" or "Abram" Verplanck, to whom in the years 1643 and 1644, land grants were made. He was a witness to a conveyance from the Indians to Governor Stuyvesant, January 28, 1656; and September 5th, 1664, was one of the signers to a "Remonstrance from the people of New Netherlands to the Director General and Council of the Dutch West India Company."

After the surrender of New York to the English, he was among the citizens who, in October, 1664, swore allegiance to the King; but when on March 31st, 1665, a meeting of the burghers and inhabitants of the city of New Amsterdam was called by the Burgomasters and Schepens to meet at the City Hall and agree upon how many of the English soldiers each would lodge in their respective houses, opposite to his name appears the decisive answer

"cannot take any." It was finally ordered that those who could not accommodate any of the soldiers should be assessed a certain sum in lieu of the accommodations, and his name is on the assessment list as "residing on the Smet Valye." Smit Valye or Smidt's Valey, abbreviated Smet or Smce's Vly, was a marsh extending from the rising ground, a little north of the city walls, along the East river, or shore of the present Pearl Street, to the rising ground near Fulton Street. This valley or salt marsh was bounded westward by the high ground along the rear of the lots on the north-western side of Pearl Street, and is spoken of by this name as early as the time of Van Twiller. Abraham Verplanck lived on what would be the west side of the present Pearl Street, between Franklin Square and Wall Street. The same list contains the name of "Abigal Verplanck, residing on the Hooge Straat," or present Broadway. She was likely the "Abigail Verplanck and child" who arrived in "April, 1664," in the ship Concord, and might have been a sister-in-law or sister of Abraham Verplanck, or indeed even his mother, from whom his eldest child and daughter was named.

In February, 1674, after the recapture of New York from the English, the Burgomasters and Schepens of the city notified the governor, that having become greatly indebted, and being daily vexed by some of their creditors to make payment, they solicited that some expedient might be invented by which these debts could be liquidated. After taking it into serious consideration, the governor decided that no remedy could be applied more prompt, than that the money should be obtained by taxation of the wealthiest inhabitants "as often in similar occurrences had been put in practice in our Fatherland;" therefore he deemed it necessary to command "that by calculation a tax be levied on the property of this State without exception, from all the inhabitants of this City of New Orange, those only excepted whose estates are calculated not to exceed the sum of one thousand gilders seawant value," and named six impartial men to levy and collect the same. From the list so made out of the "most wealthy inhabitants," I find:

Abraham Verplanck. Estate valued at Gilders Holland value, 300  
Guiliane Verplanck. " " " " " 5,000

It may appear strange at first sight that Guiliane or more properly Geleyn, should have at that early day an estate of so much greater value than his father, but this statement is reconcilable from the fact, if from no other reason, that six years before he had married into the Wessels family, one of the wealthiest in old New York, through which connection he doubtless obtained a large estate. The difference between "gilders seawant value" and "gilders Holland value," was very considerable; the exact proportion however I am unable to give, but a braided string of seawant, a fathom long, was worth a few years before only three-fourths of a guilder, and it was rapidly depreciating in value. This seawant or seawan was the name of the Indian money commonly called wampum. It consisted, as is well known, of beads formed of the shells of the *quahog* and *periwinkle*; shell fish formerly abounding on our coast, and was of two colors, the black being held of double the value of the white.

Mrs. Verplanck died in the year 1671, and her husband survived her many years, dying at an advanced age, but exactly at what date I have been unable to discover: it is however believed to have been about 1680. He had nine children in the following order, viz.:

1. Abigail, married A. Van Laets. 2. Geleyn, of whom hereafter. 3. Catalyna, married David Pieterse Schuyler, October 13, 1657. 4. Isaac, baptized June 26, 1641, died doubtless in infancy. 5. Sussanna, baptized May 25, 1642, married Martin Van Waert, December 4, 1660. 6. Jaconnyntje, baptized July 6, 1644. 7. Ariantje, baptized December 2, 1646. 8. Hellegond, baptized November 1, 1648. 9. Isaac, baptized February 26, 1651, married Miss Coeymans of Coeymans Patent, whose descendants live in the neighborhood of Albany.

Geleyn Verplanck, the second child of Abraham, was born January 1, 1637, and married, June 20, 1668, Hendrickje Wessels of Aernham. He was a prominent merchant and citizen, and on August 16, 1673, was nominated for Schepen, as being one "of the best and most respectable citizens of the reformed christian religion," to which position he was subsequently elected. In the same year he held the position of Ensign in a company of Militia, and was again Schepen in 1674. During the years 1677, '78, '79 and '83, we find his name in the list of City Aldermen, the last year for the North Ward. After the recapture of New York by the

Dutch, he was one of the three commissioners appointed to liquidate the demands against the estate of the *ci-devant* Governor Lovelace. As has been already shown his Estate was valued in 1674, at five thousand gilders, while his father's was worth but three hundred. He died April 23, 1684, leaving his wife executrix of his will. She afterward married, May 29, 1685, Jacobus Kip of New York. Geleyn Verplanck had eight children, six sons and two daughters, the eldest of whom was Samuel, born December 16, 1669, and baptized the third day after. He married Ariantje, daughter of Balthazar and Marritje (Loockermans) Bayard, October 26, 1691, and died at sea, November 20, 1698, while on a voyage from Curacao to Jamaica, and is buried at the latter place. His will was proved at New York the next year with his wife as Executrix. He had four children, the youngest Gulian, being but six months old, when his father died.

Gulian Verplanck, the great-grandson of the first emigrant, was born May 31, 1698, and married, September 8, 1737, Mary, daughter of Charles and Anna (Sinclair) Crommelin of New York. Mrs. Verplanck's father although of Dutch origin was born in France, and her mother was a French Huguenot; the Sinclair family being descended from James the Fifth of Scotland's son, the Earl of Orkney. He died November 11, 1751, and of his children, seven in number, the eldest Samuel and the youngest Gulian, will each require a passing notice.

Samuel Verplanck the grand-father of our deceased member, was born in the City of New York September 19, 1739, and was graduated by Kings now Columbia College in 1758, with its first graduating class. Among his classmates at graduation were Samuel Provost, afterwards the first Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York, and Philip Van Cortlandt, Colonial Lieut. Governor of the State, during the Revolution. It was towards the close of the year 1746, that the first decided movement was made towards having a college erected in the province, and by November 1753, such progress had been made in the enterprise that the Rev. Samuel Johnson D. D. of Stratford, Connecticut was invited to accept the presidency of the intended institution, with a salary of two hundred and fifty pounds a year. He refused to absolutely accept the office until the charter had been first obtained, and although he visited New York, the following April, it was by way of trial only. He was at this time in his 58th year, and had been for above thirty years the faithful missionary at Stratford of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The University of Oxford had conferred upon him when he was but forty-six the Degree of Doctor of Divinity, a high distinction from that body even at this day of easily earned college "*honors*." On the 16th of May, 1754, the ten trustees who had been chosen to hold the funds raised for the benefit of the College, presented a draft of a charter, and in anticipation of a more formal establishment of the College, gave public notice of an examination of candidates for admission, to be held during the first week of the following July, and on the 17th of that month, Dr. Johnson began in the vestry room of the school-house belonging to Trinity Church, his instruction of the eight students who were admitted at this first examination, and on the list, the first name is that of SAMUEL VERPLANCK. The others in their respective order were Rudolph Ritzima, Philip Van Cortlandt, Robert Bayard, Samuel Provost, Thomas Marston, Henry Cruger, and Joshua Bloomer. Of these, Bayard, Marston, and Cruger, the latter the colleague of Edmund Burke for Bristol, in the House of Commons, and a fearless advocate of American rights, did not graduate, and two others, Isaac Ogden and Joseph Reade, were added to the class and graduated with it in 1758. The Charter was finally granted October 31, 1754, and among the prominent men named in it for the Governors, was Philip Verplanck, who was a son of Jacob, youngest brother of Samuel, the grandfather of the first graduate, and he continued in this office until 1770, a year before his death, when he resigned.

Samuel Verplanck's father having died before his son arrived at manhood, the latter was sent after his graduation to Holland, where he remained for several years in the counting-house of his maternal uncle Daniel Crommelin, who was then at the head of the great banking and commercial house of Daniel Crommelin and Sons, of Amsterdam; a house which had an existence of more than a century, and has only been dissolved within the last ten years. In a letter written by Gulian C. Verplanck, when at Amsterdam in 1816, he speaks of visiting Daniel Crommelin, and his taking him to the Exchange where "he took his accustomed stand

about the centre of the square that his father and grandfather had always stood on, and that I was talking to him on the same ground where my grandfather must have talked to his, fifty years ago." The present representative of the Crommelin family is Claude Auguste Crommelin, a member of the City Council of Amsterdam, and inheritor of the family homestead.

Samuel Verplanck married while in Holland on the 26th of April, 1761, his cousin Judith Crommelin, daughter of Daniel and Mary (Le Platirier) Crommelin, and after extensive travel abroad, returned to this country in 1763, and established himself in the City of New York as a wholesale importer and banker. He was one of the twenty-four founders of the New York Chamber of Commerce in 1768, and was appointed in 1770, one of the Governors of his Alma Mater, and his name is also to be found among those of the Committee of Safety of One Hundred, who were chosen to take charge of the City Government upon the seizure of the public buildings in May, 1775. He removed to Fishkill, Dutchess County, where he was a large landholder, (the first Gulian Verplanck having been one of the three original patentees of the Rondout Patent in 1683), when his impaired health and the disordered state of the country induced his withdrawal from business. To his youngest brother Gulian, who was born February 11th, 1751, and was but nine months old when his father died, he was most tenderly attached. He carefully watched over him and guided him in his education, and after his graduation at Kings College in the Class of 1768, with Bishop Moore and Gouverneur Morris, sent him to Europe to receive a similar mercantile training under his uncle Daniel Crommelin as he had received. Gulian Verplanck became quite a noted man, highly accomplished and a fluent good speaker. As early as 1788, he was a representative in the Assembly of the State and was elected Speaker July 6, 1791, and again January 6, 1796. During the last ten years of his life from 1790, he was one of the Regents of the University of the State, and also held the position of second President of the Bank of New York. Of the Old Tontine Coffee House, founded in 1792, he was one of the original Trustees named in the deed of trust, and a subscriber to two shares of the stock. He married Cornelia, daughter of David Johnson of Dutchess County, and his son was David Johnson Verplanck a prominent local politician, and at one time time editor of the "New York American," subsequently under the charge of President Charles King. He died at the close of the year 1799, leaving his wife to survive him, who two years later, married George Cairnes, the Reporter of the Supreme Court of New York State.

Samuel Verplanck died at Mount Gulian, on the banks of the Hudson, which had been a country residence of his father, on the 27th of January, 1820, in the eighty-first year of his age. He had two children, a daughter who died in infancy, and a son named from his maternal grandfather, Daniel Crommelin Verplanck.

Daniel C. Verplanck was born March 19, 1762, and received his degree of A. M. from Columbia College in 1788, after its re-organization. He was a man of great liberality and universally popular. He married October 29, 1785, Elizabeth, daughter of William Samuel Johnson, first President of Columbia College, as his father had been first President of Kings College. President Johnson was a man of distinguished ability. He was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Oxford University in 1765. Towards the close of the next year he was appointed Agent Extraordinary of the Colony of Connecticut to the mother country, and in the execution of his important mission embarked for England, where he resided until the middle of the year 1771. From 1787 until 1800 when he resigned, he was President of Columbia College and resided in the City of New York. After he dissolved his connection with the College, he returned to his old home at Stratford, where he died November 14, 1819, aged ninety-two years. His daughter Mrs. Verplanck died February 6, 1789, when she was but in her twenty-fifth year, leaving two children, GULIAN CROMMELIN, and Ann who died in infancy. Her husband married again, Nov. 17, 1790, Ann, only daughter of William and Mary (De Lancey) Walton, by whom he had seven children, four daughters and three sons, as follows: Mary Ann, Louisa, Samuel, Elizabeth, William Walton, James De Lancey, and Anna Louisa. He was with his uncle Gulian an original subscriber in 1794, to two shares of stock in the Tontine Building, and his nominees were his two children, Gulian C. and Mary Ann. Of this singular enterprise more hereafter.



Daniel C. Verplanck, was a representative in Congress from 1802 until 1809, and subsequently a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Dutchess County, resigning his seat on the bench in 1828. He died near Fishkill, March 29th, 1834.

Having now given a succinct account of the Verplanck family, from its first ancestor in this country through six generations, and shown each successive generation to have been a most worthy representative of its progenitor, I will now enter upon one of the most pleasing duties which it has ever fallen upon my pen to fulfil, and proceed to give a memorial of the life and services of our deceased member the

HON. GULIAN CROMMELIN VERPLANCK, LL. D.

Gulian Crommelin Verplanck was born in Wall Street in the City of New York, August 6, 1786. His mother dying when he was but three years old, and his father having married a second time, he was brought up under the care of his grandmother Judith Crommelin, a most accomplished and highly cultivated lady; and under her care and that of his maternal grandparents at Stratford, with whom much of his time was passed and who took great interest in his welfare, he received his early education. At the rather juvenile age of eleven years he entered Columbia College, from whence he was graduated in 1801, and a few years later was registered a student-at-law in the office of Josiah Ogden Hoffman, then at the height of his reputation, and between whom and Mr. Verplanck the tenderest friendship always existed. He was admitted to practice as an attorney in the Court of Common Pleas, November 20, 1807, and the next year he opened an office at No. 50 Wall Street. It does not appear that he ever engaged to any extent in the practice of his profession, nor did he desire it, and the more this is to be regretted from the great legal mind he afterwards exhibited, which amply proved that by him any position of eminence at the bar or on the bench might have been attained, and thereby the community have secured a jurist of rare acquirements and purity.

He made his *débüt* in public life July 4, 1809, when in his twenty-third year, by delivering an oration before the Washington Benevolent Society of New York, which was published at the time, and copies of it are preserved in the Library of Congress at Washington, and in the New York State Library at Albany. Two years later while in the midst of a war of political squibs, in which he took no minor part, he was married on the 2d of October, 1811, to Eliza Fenno, daughter of John Ward and Mary (Curtis) Fenno, originally of Boston, but later of Philadelphia, in which city Mr. Fenno succeeded his father in the publication of the United States Gazette, a federal paper strongly supporting the administration of Washington, and where he perished in the terrible yellow fever of 1799. Miss Fenno was a sister of Mrs. Josiah Ogden Hoffman, and under the roof of his old preceptor he first met his future bride. His married life was a very short but a very happy one, and his devotion to the memory of his wife, is worthy not only of all praise, but of all imitation in this age of too frequent "out of sight, out of mind." I cannot tell the beautiful and touching story of his early and life-long grief, in terms more appropriate than those conveyed to me in a letter from his grand-daughter, the one bearing his beloved wife's name. She writes from "Fishkill on the Hudson," as follows: "My grandmother died in Paris, April 29, 1817, of consumption, a disease which had proved fatal to many members of her family. Her physicians here had almost assured her that a voyage to Europe, and residence in the South of France for a short time, would restore her health. She went first to Charleston and from thence to Europe, leaving two young children, my father then in his third year, and a baby of six months, in the care of my grandfather's sister Mary Anna Verplanck, eldest daughter of Judge Verplanck by his second marriage. My aunt devoted her life to the care and education of these children, and her letters to my grandmother during her absence evince the most tender interest in her nephews, to whom she stood for so long in a mother's stead. My grandmother's letter to my father, telling him 'that when the trees are green again dear mother will come to her darling boy,' brings tears to our eyes after all these years, and all the advice and loving counsel a little boy of four years could understand, were poured forth from the yearning heart of this mother, who was on this earth never to see her children again. In the weariness of the separation her great comfort was in the expression 'I am making this sacrifice for my children.' At one time she says, 'I think if I could see my dear baby again, it would almost make me well.'

"She was a woman of quick sympathy, with exquisite taste in art, literature and music; of a most lovely and expressive countenance. I hope to have the pleasure of showing you the miniatures in my father's possession, one by Malbone most lovely of 'pretty grandma' as my baby daughter calls her, when she begs to see the pictures. Her expression was of great purity, simplicity and sweetness, and though her features were not regular she was considered to possess much beauty. To her influence upon his whole life æsthetically, mentally, and devotionally, my grandfather has ascribed the direction and cultivation of those tastes which afterwards made him so prominent among men of letters.

"Every thing belonging to her was treasured by my grandfather during the long years of his long life with most touching care. Letters to and from Miss Fenno, her visiting cards, rings, long tresses of her beautiful hair, poetry she had copied when a child, and letters to and from her sisters in their childish days, all preserved to be opened after his death, by her grandchildren, and which formed a most affecting incident in the examination of his papers. In a book of devotion, he has written that she died at mid-night, April 29, 1817. Never during my whole life did I ever hear him mention her name. Once last summer he came into the drawing-room where I was sitting, and pointing to the miniature by Malbone lying on the table, he said to me, 'Eliza, I am going to give you a copy of that picture.'"

Mrs. Verplanck's remains rest in the beautiful cemetery of Père La Chaise, and her bereaved husband after a brief visit to England and Scotland, where he was much with Washington Irving, returned to New York early in the fall. From his letters written during his sojourn abroad, I feel constrained to make some extracts, showing as they do, even at that early day, two prominent characteristics of his mind,—inquiry and observation. From Paris, May 20, 1816, he writes, "with all the splendour I am disappointed in Paris, every thing has been so turned and overturned that it has nothing of antiquity about it, but its want of comfort." In the same letter he speaks of having met with several American officers and gentlemen who had been travelling in various parts of Europe, and that he finds them almost all concurring in the same feeling of disappointment and even contempt, for the institutions of the continent, compared with those of our own country. He then adds, "There has been a wonderful change in Europe in public opinion with respect to the American character. We are as much respected now as a few years ago we were despised." From Amsterdam where he remained some time, he wrote soon after his arrival, September 14, 1816: "Every vestige of the ravages of war has disappeared, even at Waterloo the houses are all rebuilt and scarce any mark of the battle left. There seems to be great comfort and wealth among the peasantry, and the moment you cross the frontier, you find yourself among a neater people. \* \* \* \* Amsterdam when I arrived was swarming with peasantry, who had come to the fair. The richness of the gold head-dresses of the women, and the silver buckles of the men, and the crowds of people swarming on all sides, give an air of great liveliness to the whole town. I do not think that the Abbé du Pradt is strictly correct when he says (in his Congress of Vienna) 'that as habitations for the use of man, nothing on the continent can compare with the towns of Holland.' Like our American cities the beauty consists in the fine streets and the general air of opulence and comfort. In public edifices, it cannot compare with the great towns of France. The town house must have been a very grand edifice for that purpose, but it is now turned into a palace, and as such is gloomy and incommodious." In another letter he says, "I have received great attentions from our relations. The son of Mr. Claude Crommelin, a very fine young man, accompanied me to Sardana and Broché, where we admired the wonderful neatness of the outside of the houses, for it was idle to think of admission into any of them, when the Emperor of Austria had been refused. Mr. Claude Crommelin lives in a large plain house something like P. Jay Monroe's in Broadway, without, in the Hurengracht, one of the best built streets of Amsterdam, with a fine garden in the rear. You enter a hall paved and sided with white marble, on the one side is a small parlour and the computing room, on the other two parlours; one much like a well furnished New York parlour, the other filled with carvings and gildings, with walls and ceilings painted with allegorical figures." Then follows the description of going to the Exchange, quoted in a former part of this memoir. Again writing, while still in Amsterdam, he says: "The new Kingdom of the

*Pays-Bas*, is a very incoherent mass. The Belgians dislike the union exceedingly, and conceive that their interests are sacrificed to those of Holland; then the difference of manners, language, &c., makes them a very different people. I travelled in company with a Flemish gentleman, who fills a respectable legal office at Liege, he is much more of a foreigner than I am in Amsterdam, and has nothing in common with his fellow subjects, but the orange cockade in his hat. Holland seems prosperous and happy. The Orange family are popular, though I understand the people do not much like the idea of having a king, it was certainly weak in the family to shock old opinions and feelings for the sake of a mere name." Speaking of Ghent, he says, "It is an immense half peopled town, very dull and gloomy, with grass growing in the streets, and one may walk a mile without meeting twenty people. I saw mass celebrated with great pomp, by the Prince de Broglio, Bishop of Ghent, in the magnificently decorated Cathedral. He is the great leader of opposition in Belgium to the Orange family."

Before his return to Paris later in the fall, he visited Leyden and thus speaks of it: "At Leyden, the university makes little show, the most interesting thing I saw there was a fine grove of American trees, set out by Boerhave, chiefly butternut and tulip trees. The library is very valuable, but it is stowed away in a small and inconvenient room, where the books are so closely arranged that you have scarcely room to walk. I was surprised to see the Librarian, apparently a man of education and as I afterwards learned, a rich bookseller, hold out his hand for his fee, as the servants and porters do at palaces, and receive a florin with thanks. The Rector and Law Professor, Dr. Kemper, enjoys a very high reputation. He was at the head of the revolution which restored the present family, and was offered the first places in the State, which he refused—to return to the university, asking only for the privilege of free admission to the King, whenever he should desire it. He is now at the head of a commission to form a civil and criminal code for the United Kingdom. Mr. Eustis, our Minister in Holland, describes the Dutch Court as extremely plain and economical. The King's dinners he says, are nearly such as Mr. Madison gives, and not more splendid in any respect, except in being served on silver. But the Dutch are oppressed by the immense expense of their army, being obliged to keep up 60,000 men. Holland is very loyal, but Belgium is said to be retained by mere force."

As has been before said, after the death of his wife, Mr. Verplanck visited England and Scotland, and from a letter written to his father from London, we learn the impression made upon him, by some of the prominent men of the day in the Houses of Parliament, and the Courts of Law. He writes dated June 24, 1817: "During the last week I have been attending the debates in Parliament, on the Habeas Corpus suspension bill. I was there from five till one in the morning, and heard most of the Peers distinguished for talent. There was much very bad speaking; I never heard worse in any of our bodies than from Lords Grosvenor, King, and several others. Lords Sidmouth, Landsdown, Biddesdale, (formerly Chancellor of Ireland,) and the Duke of Montrose, struck me as good debaters, but Grey, in manner, was finer than any public speaker in a legislative body, I ever heard. I was last night in the Commons till two in the morning, all the talents of the house were brought out except [—] on the one side, and Peel, a young man of the highest reputations on the other. The three best speeches were from Canning, Brougham, and Wilberforce. Canning though the worst in matter was far the best in manner. Brougham is too much of a lawyer, and Wilberforce of the preacher, the last was however listened to with more attention than either of the others, for he has a weight of character, which Brougham and Canning who are regarded as political adventurers, want. Castlereagh is fluent and easy, but confused and unimpressive, the only thing which appeared to be at all remarkable about him, was his good humour and mildness of manner, in all the altercations of the debate. The noise, disorder, and apparent rudeness of the house is very striking to an American."

"I arrived in London during the last days of the term, and had an excellent opportunity of seeing the bar and bench of England. Neither of the four courts appear to me as respectable and imposing as the Supreme Court of the United States, or of New York. Lord Ellenborough is heavy and drawing in his manner and without dignity,—but Sir V. Gibbs, in the

Common Pleas, presides with great dignity, and in his gentlemanly deportment to the bar, presents a strong contrast to Lord Ellenborough. I was at Guildhall this morning, and heard a trial before each of the Chief Justices. Sir Vicary's manner reminds me much of that of Mr. Harrison. I was surprised to observe the general want of fluency in the public speakers, even Sir V. Gibbs, is hesitating, and at a public meeting of the Naval School Society, the Bishop of London in an attempt at an *extempore* speech, appeared worse than the most illiterate of our methodists."

The next month he writes to his sister-in-law Mrs. Hoffman, from the Scottish Capital, "as to Edinburgh, 'my own romantic town' as Scott calls it, and it is the only city I ever saw, which deserves the name of 'romantic,' and never was there a happier epithet. For the town, its institutions, &c., Simond can give you a better account of them than I can, though he does not give that praise to Scotch manners which they deserve. I saw Mrs. Grant several times, and breakfasted with her the day before I left Edinburgh. I need not say I was much pleased with her." This was Mrs. Anne Grant of Laggan, who wrote the celebrated "Memoirs of an American Lady"; the American lady being, "Madam Schuyler" of Albany, the widow of Colonel Philip Schuyler, and aunt of the distinguished general of that name. In a subsequent letter he speaks of taking tea with Mrs. Barbauld, then seventy-five years of age. Before he took his final departure for his native land, he re-visited the home of his ancestors, and from Amsterdam he closes a letter with: "I should like very well to see Italy, but I cannot think of buying that pleasure at so dear a rate as another winter's absence. The desire of seeing the land of [—] and liberty, was the strongest inclination of the kind I ever felt, and I feel some gratification in the thought that I have sacrificed it once to the comfort of Eliza, and a second time to her children; this reflection fully compensates for any regret I may hereafter feel on the subject." Mr. Verplanck never made a second visit to Europe, and when urged to do so, simply replied that he was happier at home. Upon his return he entered afresh the arena of local politics, in which he had somewhat bestirred himself before his departure, by writing a series of letters signed "Abimeleck Coody, Ladies' Shoemaker," which were printed in the papers of the day, vigorously attacking with satire and abuse, the then Mayor, De Witt Clinton, who had some time before made himself prominent in preferring charges against Verplanck, in terms rather strong, in proceedings before him, arising out of a disturbance which had taken place at Columbia College on commencement day. The letters were finally answered in a pamphlet dated January, 1815, entitled: "An account of Abimeleck Coody, and other celebrated writers of New York, in a letter from a traveller to a friend in South Carolina," in which the writer, believed to have been Clinton himself, denounced Mr. Verplanck as "the head of a political sect called the 'Coodies,' of hybrid nature, composed of the spawn of Federalism and Jacobinism, and generated in the venomous passions of disappointment and revenge, without any definite character, neither fish nor flesh, nor bird nor beast, but a nondescript made up of

'all monstrous, all prodigious things.'"

It also contained a defence of the members of the Historical Society, and the Literary and Philosophical Society, over both of which Clinton presided, and in particular of Clinton himself.

The Coodies, among the leaders of whom were Verplanck and Hugh Maxwell, both prominent in the Columbia College difficulty, were a branch of the Federalists, who had become disaffected and left its ranks, and joined the good old democracy of Tammany. This was at the time of the last war with England, when the federalist party rendered itself so obnoxious by its continued opposition to its prosecution; and a large body of its supporters being opposed to this opposition, deserted its standard, and allied themselves to that party which was so vigorous in its prosecution.

During the years 1813 and '14, while Irving had the editorial charge of the *Analectic Magazine*, published in Philadelphia for several years by Moses Thomas, Verplanck made many valuable contributions to its pages, designated by the initial V, principally of a biographical nature, which style of composition he seems to have enjoyed in his early days, as may be seen from his graceful address before the New York Historical Society towards the close of 1818, in

which he commemorates the virtues and condemns the vices, of the "Early European Friends of America." Among his articles of that character in the *Analectic*, may be mentioned memoirs of Samuel Adams, Fisher Ames, Joel Barlow, Cadwallader Colden, Oliver Ellsworth, and Generals Pike and Scott, while he also wrote reviews of Waterman's "Life of Calvin," Leigh Hunt's "Feasts of the Poets," and several years later of his friend's, the editor's, "Sketch Book."

I have referred to his anniversary address before the Historical Society; this may be said to have been the basis upon which was built his future literary reputation. It opened with a lamentation for the lack of interest shown by his fellow-countrymen in the history of their own country, and seems to have aroused them from a lethargy into which they have never since fallen. It was reviewed both at home and abroad by the leading periodicals of the day, and from a well written article in the *North American Review* for March, 1819, I extract the closing paragraph as giving in a brief compass a just estimate of his work. "We cannot take leave of Mr. Verplanck without acknowledgments for the refined entertainment which his performance has afforded. It is a collection of interesting facts, enlivened by a chaste imagination, and exhibits a generous glow of heart, a free but candid judgment of men, and an enlightened love of country. The author regards with laudable complacency the sympathies of great and good men of whatever nation, in the advancement and fame of our free and united communities."

It was in this address that Mr. Verplanck alluded to Knickerbocker's History of New York in a spirit of regret at the injustice done by it to the Dutch character. He says, "It is more 'in sorrow than in anger' that I feel myself compelled to add to these gross instances of national injustice, an early work of a writer of our own, who is justly considered one of the highest ornaments of American literature. I allude to the burlesque history of New York, in which it is painful to see a mind as admirable for its exquisite perception of the beautiful, as it is for its quick sense of the ridiculous, wasting the riches of its fancy on an ungrateful theme, and its exuberant humour in a coarse caricature. The writer has not yet fulfilled all the promise he has given to his country. It is his duty because it is in his power, to brush away the pretenders who may at any time infest her society, her science, or her politics: or if he aspires, as I trust he does, to strains of a higher mood, the deeds of his countrymen and the undescribed beauties of his native land, afford him many a rich subject, and he may deck the altar of his country's glory with the garlands of his taste and fancy."

In a note to this passage the author says: "To those who judge of Mr. Irving's powers, solely from his satirical and ludicrous compositions, this may seem an exaggerated compliment. But he has given some samples, too few and too short I confess, of what he is able to effect on these topics in his graver and purer style." And in a later edition he adds: "The above note was written and first published about fourteen years ago. It is retained in the present edition, because I feel proud that my judgment of the graver talents of the author of Knickerbocker, has been confirmed again and again, and above all by the *Life of Columbus*."

Upon the above criticism Irving wrote to his brother Ebenezer, who had expressed some fear at the effect it might have upon a new edition, then about to be published in Philadelphia: "I have seen what Verplanck said of my work. He did me more than justice in what he said of my mental qualifications: and he said nothing of my work that I have not long thought of it myself. \* \* \* He is one of the honestest men I know of, in speaking his opinion. There is a determined candor about him, which will not allow him to be blinded by passion. I am sure he wishes me well, and his own talents and acquirements are too great to suffer him to entertain jealousy; but were I his bitterest enemy, such an opinion have I of his integrity of mind, that I would refer any one to him for an honest opinion of me, sooner than to almost any one else."

To Henry Brevoort with the first number of the *Sketch Book*, containing the inimitable story of Rip Van Winkle, the main points of which Jefferson has made so familiar to the present generation, Irving writes in his playful vein, after alluding in the most complimentary terms to the oration of Verplanck: "I hope he will not put our old Dutch burghers into the notion that they must feel affronted with poor Deidrick Knickerbocker, just as he is about coming

out in a new edition. I could not help laughing at this burst of filial feeling in Verplanck, on the jokes put upon his ancestors; though I honor the feeling and admire the manner in which it is expressed. It met my eyes just as I had finished the little story of Rip Van Winkle, and I could not help noticing it in the introduction to that bagatelle. I hope Verplanck will not think the article is written in defiance of his vituperation. Remember me heartily to him, and tell him I mean to grow wiser and better and older every day, and to lay the castigation he has given seriously to heart."

In the following year was published a small volume entitled "The Bucktail Bards," which has usually been attributed to Mr. Verplanck; and the correctness of this seems fully sustained, by his responding in a most delightful manner to a toast to the "Bucktail Bard" given by Mr. Bryant, at a dinner to Fitz Green Halleck in January, 1854, at the Century Club. But at the same time this hardly seems conclusive, in the face of the fact that the catalogue of the New York State Library, of which he was for many years a trustee, and in which he exercised a controlling influence, contains the work with the name of his father's cousin Johnson Verplanck as author. The volume contained "The State Triumvirate, a Political Tale," "The Bucktail Bards" proper, and "The Epistles of Brevet Major Pindar Puff," in the latter of which, De Witt Clinton, then Governor, was ridiculed under that character. About the same time or a little later, there appeared a clever squib, which was published anonymously "*for the use of the members*," entitled "Procès-Verbal of the Ceremony of Installation." It was a keen satire on the inauguration of Dr. Hosack as the successor of Clinton in the Presidency of the New York Historical Society, and has generally been attributed to the ready pen of Mr. Verplanck.

In 1820, he was elected a member of the New York Assembly, where he mainly interested himself with the "literary aspects of political subjects," being Chairman of the Committee on Education, in which capacity he made a report on Colleges, Academies, and Common Schools, in support of the appropriation by the General Government of Public Lands for educational purposes. This same year the New York Sketch Club was established, out of which the present "Century" has grown, and among its organizers and earliest members we find Verplanck, Bryant, and Sands, who afterwards united their talents in the production of the Talisman. The next year upon the organization of the General Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, he was chosen to the chair of the "Evidences of Revealed Religion and Moral Science in its relation to Theology," with Bishop Hobart, Reverends Samuel H. Turner, Bird Wilson, Benjamin T. Onderdonk, and Clement C. Moore as his co-professors. His lectures delivered while holding the professorship were published after his resignation in 1824, with the title of "Essays on the Nature and Uses of the various Evidences of Revealed Religion." Of these lectures one who listened to them—the Reverend Samuel Roosevelt Johnson—wrote me:—"There is but one thing I know of as connected with these Lectures which it may be well for you to note. Bishop Daniel Wilson had a high reputation as an author, before he was consecrated Bishop of Calcutta. His chief work was 'Lectures on the Evidences of Christianity' in two volumes octavo. In the Introduction to the second volume, he writes as follows: 'To these names I have peculiar satisfaction in adding that of an American writer of singular talent, with a good deal of the mind of our Bishop Butler, whose work abounds with deep and original thoughts.' He adds in a note 'a reprint has not yet been made of this masterly work.' This was pronounced at the time the highest compliment ever paid to an American writer." Dr. Johnson continues: "Mr. Verplanck was very quiet in his manner as professor. He gave us the impression that he did not take to the task of instructor very much. He loved to converse freely as the individual—to think patiently—to write carefully—but the class room was stiff and unnatural to him. His report against voting by proxy, for the Trustees, led the General Convention to reverse all its procedure on that subject, and his report on the removal of the Seminary was very able and interesting." Another one of his "boys," the Rev. Dr. Shelton of Buffalo, speaks of him in the most affectionate and glowing terms.

This same year he was one of a committee of which Peter A. Jay and Charles King were also members, appointed by the High School Society of New York, to prepare a "Plan

of Instruction, to be pursued in the High School," and he, it is believed, drafted the report. He afterwards held the position of President of the Board of Trustees of this Society, and as such, in the Annual Report for 1829, paid a "Tribute to the memory of Daniel H. Barnes," late principal, which is published in his volume of collected essays, under the head of "The Schoolmaster."

In 1825, appeared Mr. Verplanck's "Essay on the Doctrine of Contracts, being an Inquiry how Contracts are affected in Law and Morals by Concealment, Error or Inadequate Price." This curious discussion on the line between law and morals, in which the maxim of "*caveat emptor*" is attacked, was most ably reviewed in the *North American Review* by that noble expounder of international law, the late Henry Wheaton, from which article I extract the following: "The question which Mr. Verplanck has investigated arose out of a case determined in the Supreme Court of the United States, and reported in 2 Wheaton, 195. The case related to the validity of a contract of sale under the following circumstances. Some American merchants, who were on board the British fleet after the memorable attack on New Orleans, in January, 1815, received the unexpected news of the treaty of peace, which had been signed at Ghent, and brought it up to the city the same night. Soon after sunrise the next morning and before it could be known among men of business, a merchant, who had been put in possession of the information, called upon another and contracted for the purchase of a large quantity of tobacco at the market price of the day, without giving the vendor any hint of the intelligence, but at the same time without saying anything calculated to impose upon him. Immediately after the news of peace was publicly known the price of tobacco rose more than fifty per cent.

"Upon this state of facts, Mr. Chief Justice Marshall, in delivering the opinion of the Court, observed that the question was 'whether the intelligence of extraneous circumstances, which might influence the price of the commodity and which was exclusively within the knowledge of the vendee, ought to have been communicated by him to the vendor? *The Court is of the opinion that he was not bound to communicate it.* It would be difficult to circumscribe the contrary doctrine within proper limits, when the means of intelligence are equally accessible to both parties. But at the same time each party must take care not to say or do anything tending to impose upon the other.'" In speaking of this work a few days since, one of our oldest and ablest lawyers remarked "that the argument was the growth of a laudable ambition born in a pure mind, but that it was impracticable." This year, 1825, Mr. Verplanck was elected a representative from New York City to the Nineteenth Congress, where he remained through the four successive terms, retiring at the close of the twenty-second session in 1833. During his congressional career he warmly advocated the extension of the term of copyright, a measure which was passed in the session of 1830-31, and about which he writes to Irving, "I have a copyright bill before Congress with which I have taken great pains. It consolidates, enlarges and explains our laws on that subject which are full of confusion and doubt. It extends the time to twenty-eight years, with powers of renewal for a like time by the author or his widow at the expiration." On his return home at the close of this session he was tendered a complimentary dinner by prominent men of letters in token of their appreciation of his eminent services in obtaining the passage of this law, at which he made an able speech on the Law of Literary Property, in which he enforced the same doctrine as he had promulgated in Congress, that "the right of property in the production of intellectual labour was as much founded on natural justice as the right of property in the production of corporeal labour, that he who toils with the mind is as honestly entitled to the fruits of that toil as he who works with the hands." The measure secured to the author and artist, in lieu of the former narrow term of fourteen years, with the contingent chance of one renewal if living at the end of the time, the sole and secure benefit of his work for forty-two years, with the privilege of renewal to his widow and children.

It was while he was in Congress, that the agitation on the rights of Congress to impose a protective tariff and its power to force obedience to the same was at its height, and in its defence he wrote a "Letter to Colonel W. Drayton, in assertion of the constitutional power of Congress to impose protective duties," which was printed at New York in 1831. In 1833,

while Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, he made a "Report on the Bank of the United States," which institution he favored, and of its President the late Nicholas Biddle he thought very highly, and at his house Mr. Verplanck stayed on his return from Washington after his last term in Congress. The same year, 1833, there was published by the Harpers a small octavo volume of 257 pages, entitled "Discourses and Addresses on Subjects of American History, Arts, and Literature. By Gulian C. Verplanck," which contained besides his "Anniversary Discourse before the Historical Society," and "The Schoolmaster," and speech on "The Law of Literary Property," "An Eulogy on Lord Baltimore, the Founder of Maryland," which was delivered at the festival held in 1829, by the "friends of civil and religious liberty" in the City of New York, over which Dr. James McNevin presided, on the occasion of the final passing of the bill for Catholic Emancipation in Ireland; "an Address on the opening of the American Academy of the Fine Arts in May, 1824," of which he was one of the Vice-Presidents; "an Address before the Philolexian and Peithologian Societies of Columbia College," in which the many distinguished graduates of the college are commemorated, and in regard to one of them—De Witt Clinton—the first graduate after the peace of 1783, he says, "after the numerous tributes which have so recently been paid to his memory, and especially that luminous view of his character as a scholar and a statesman, as the promoter of good education and useful improvements, contained in the discourse lately delivered from this place by Professor Renwick, anything I could now say on the subject would be but useless repetition. Else would I gladly pay the homage due to his eminent and lasting services, and honor that lofty ambition which brought him to look to designs of grand utility, and to their successful execution, as his arts of gaining or redeeming the confidence of a generous and public spirited people. For whatever of party animosity might have ever blinded me to his merits, had died away long before his death, and I would now utter his honest praises without the imputation of hollow pretense from others, or the mortifying consciousness in my own breast, of rendering unwilling and tardy justice to noble designs and great public service." The volume concludes with "a Lecture before the Mercantile Library Association of New York in 1831-32," which contains a feeling tribute to the memory of his venerable friend the late William Roscoe of Liverpool.

In November, 1833, he delivered an "Introductory Lecture to a course of Scientific Lectures, before the Mechanics' Institute of the City of New York," while in the preceeding August he had discoursed on "The Right Moral Influence, and Use of Liberal Studies," at the commencement of Geneva College. The next year on a similar occasion at Amherst College, he spoke on "The Influence of Moral Causes upon Opinions, Science and Literature," in the course of which after alluding to his descent from the stock of Grotius and De Witt, he remarks: "I cannot but remember also that I have New England blood in my veins, that many of my happiest youthful days were passed in her villages, and that my best education was bestowed by the more than parental care of one of the wisest and most excellent of her sons;" here referring of course to his maternal grandfather, William Samuel Johnson. His last college address was made in 1836, when he delivered his masterly and celebrated discourse at Union College on "The Advantages and Dangers of the American Scholar."

Mr. Verplanck, while in Congress, having separated from the Democratic party by taking grounds in favor of a National Bank, was chosen by the Whigs as their candidate in 1834, for the Mayoralty in opposition to Cornelius W. Lawrence, the candidate of the democracy. The election which followed was one of the most exciting and closely contested of many years, and Mr. Verplanck was defeated by only *one hundred and eighty-one* votes. The excitement of this political campaign did not drive him from his literary labors, for about this time he edited the "Writings" of his co-laborer in the "Talisman," the late Robert C. Sands, one of his nearest and dearest friends, and one whom he held in the highest esteem and whose memory he always cherished, to which he prefixed a genial memoir of his life.

From 1837 to 1841, he was a member of the Senate of the State of New York, which at that time composed with the judges of the higher courts, the "Court for the Correction of Errors," or the Court of Appeals in the last resort from the Supreme Court and Court of Chancery. Mr. Verplanck took an active part in these judicial duties, and many of his opin-



ions on important questions are preserved in the last seven volumes of Wendell's Reports. In 1839, while a member of the Senate, he made a report in relation to the debt, revenue and financial policy of the State, which was published in London the next year, as an appendix to a "Vindication of the Public Faith of New York and Pennsylvania."

On June 1st, 1835, Mr. Verplanck was chosen a member of the "Committee of the Tontine Building," and March 27th, 1843, one of the Trustees under the original deed of trust, both of which positions he continued to hold during life; and here I will make a slight digression to give a brief account of this singular enterprise with which Gulian C. Verplanck and other members of his family were closely connected. I am indebted in a great part for the information which follows to Mr. Frederic De Peyster, of New York, an old friend of Mr. Verplanck, and for many years Chairman of the Committee of the Association.

The Tontine Coffee House was erected at the north-west corner of Wall and Warren Streets, in 1794, and was originally intended as a meeting place or exchange for merchants, and also designed for hotel uses. The plan of this Association originated with Lorenzo Tonti, a Neapolitan, in 1656, hence the name Tontine, the purport of which was a "Loan advanced by a number of associated capitalists for life annuities with benefit of survivorship." "The term *Coffee* as generally understood," says Mr. De Peyster, "is well described in the opening of a poem entitled *The Character of a Coffee House*, which appeared in 1665.

"A *Coffee House* the learned hold,  
It is a place where *Coffee's* sold;  
This derivation cannot fail us,  
For where *Ale's* vended that's an *Ale-house*."

By the constitution, two hundred and three shares were issued to subscribers at two hundred dollars per share, and each holder of a share had the right to nominate a person of either sex in whose name and for whose life the shares were issued, and existed during the life of the nominee. The original shares were assignable by the holder and held as personal property, although each share had a contingent interest in the realty, which interest ceased with the death of the nominee, and then inured to the benefit of the survivors. "The number of nominees was six short of the actual number of shares. This difference was occasioned by the owners (203) having selected their nominees, on whose lives the shares depended, in reference to their expected longevity. Thus it turned out that on six of the lives there were two risks taken, making the lives 197."

Each share-holder received his equal proportion of the net income of the establishment, and the whole property was vested in five trustees, who were to be continued in trust or by succession until the number of nominees was reduced to seven, when the holders of these shares became entitled to a conveyance in fee as tenants in common of the entire premises. The names of the five original trustees in whom the title was vested were John Broome, John Watts, GULIAN VERPLANCK, John Delafield and William Laight. When the number of the trustees is reduced "to less than three," the committee of the Association give notice that an election will be held for the choice of their successors; and the surviving trustees then convey to the five new trustees elected to succeed them, for the purpose of continuing the trust as is set forth in the original deed. Messrs. Richard M. Lawrence and Frederic De Peyster became the survivors, who conveyed to James F. De Peyster, John A. King, GULIAN C. VERPLANCK, Anthony P. Halsey and Hamilton Fish. "Messrs. De Peyster and Fish only surviving on the 20th April, (1870,) convey now to the newly elected trustees, who will soon take under a similar conveyance and thereupon execute the usual declaration of trust, and setting forth the objects of it, and that when the nominees are reduced to seven they will convey the premises to the owners of the seven remaining shares. The trustees elected on the 20th of April last, are General J. Watts De Peyster, William J. Lawrence, James Renwick, Richard King and John P. De Wint, and the survivors of the committee are Frederic De Peyster, William H. Aspinwall and William S. Horn."

In 1834, the particular uses for which this building was erected and association organized, having virtually ended by the erection of a new Exchange, now the U. S. Custom House, an application was made to the Court of Chancery for permission to use the premises for general purposes, as in the constitution there was a special restriction against its use for any pur-

pose but that of "a Coffee House," and by its decree said restriction was removed, which decree was afterwards confirmed by a special act of the State Legislature, April 18, 1843, and its name changed to "The Tontine Building."

As was said in a former part of this memoir, Mr. Verplanck's father and uncle were original subscribers for two shares each, and that his father's nominees were Gulian C. and Mary Ann. The share of which Mr. Verplanck was nominee subsequently came into his possession as owner, and by his death the number of surviving nominees was reduced to eight, so that with one death more the trust will end. The survivors are Horatio Gates Stevens, born 1780; Robert Benson, Jr., born 1785; Gouverneur Kemble, born 1786; John P. De Wint, born 1787; Maria Bayard, widow of Duncan P. Campbell, born 1786; Mary Ray, widow of Gov. John A. King, born 1790; William Bayard, born 1791, and D. Murray Hoffman, born the same year.

In 1844, the first number of "Shakespeare's Plays; with his Life. Edited by Gulian C. Verplanck, LL. D., with Critical Introduction, Notes, &c., original and selected," appeared; which was completed in 1847, in three large volumes, profusely illustrated from designs by Kenny Meadows. One of the peculiar characteristics of this edition is the indication of those expressions in the text commonly called Americanisms, which being obsolete in England, are yet retained in this country in quite familiar use. At about this time or perhaps a few years earlier Mr. Verplanck published a small volume of Fairy Tales; that is he wrote the introduction signed "John Smith," but whether the entire work was from his pen I am unable to say. He also wrote for the *New York Mirror* an interesting account of the house at Newburgh, occupied by Washington in 1783, as his Head-quarters.

In 1847, May 5th, was passed the act creating the "Board of the Commissioners of Emigration" for the protection of foreigners when first arriving on our shores, one of the most eminently humane and beneficial bodies ever created by any power, in any place, at any time; and of the commissioners named in the act Mr. Verplanck stands at the head. His co-laborers in this good christian work were James Boorman, Jacob Harvey, Robert B. Minturn, William F. Havemeyer and David C. Colden. The Board was organized May 8th at the Mayor's Office in the City Hall, and on June 14th, Mr. Havemeyer was elected President. He resigned however in the following February, and was succeeded March 1, 1848, by Mr. Verplanck, who continued in the active exercise of his duties until the Wednesday preceeding his death. Mr. Verplanck prepared nearly all of the annual reports of the Board, which were republished in a condensed form in one octavo volume, in 1861. He also laid the corner stone of the "Verplanck State Hospital on Ward Island," which was named in commemoration of his philanthropic services and of which he was one of the Governors. I believe he never missed a meeting of the Commission in whose work he was so deeply interested, indeed his son in a letter dated April 10th, says: "He was not rural in his taste, but enjoyed spending half the week at his Fishkill residence with his grand-children, *always returning* however on Wednesday for the regular meeting of the Commissioners of Emigration." Mention of his Fishkill residence reminds me that the Verplanck house at Fishkill is historically remarkable for having been the head-quarters of Baron Steuben, when the American army was encamped in the vicinity of Newburgh, and also as the place wherein was organized in 1783, the celebrated Society of the Cincinnati.

My only personal acquaintance with Mr. Verplanck was a slight epistolary one, which began some eight years since when I was busily engaged illustrating for my own enjoyment a work then fresh from the press and now dear to all of us, "The Life and Letters of Washington Irving." I addressed Mr. Verplanck in regard to an early portrait of himself, suitable for insertion in my book and in reply he said, "The best portrait of myself, as I now am, is a very noble portrait by Huntington, taken for the Commissioners of Emigration as President of that Board, and exceedingly well photographed by Frederics of this city. At this age and in this character I have little in connection with my friend Irving. I have at my home at Fishkill on the Hudson a very good portrait of myself by Jarvis, (who never failed in his likeness) taken about forty years ago at a period when I was more intimately connected with Irving and his friends." He then goes on to say that he has no copy of it, but that one of his

family might be able to make a fair amateur copy, which if successful he would send to me, and concludes with "a lame hand prevents my making some suggestions as to portraits of others at present." The copy was never received neither did I succeed in obtaining from him those suggestions which would have been so rich in interest and value. My next letter from him was written after a lapse of nearly five years, although in the interim I had received from him a beautiful *carte* photograph of himself by Brady, when in acknowledgement of a slight literary effort of my own which I had ventured to send him, he in return, kindly presented me with a choice privately printed volume from his pen, the "Twelfth Night at the Century Club, January 6, 1858," and expressed his regret that he had no copy to offer me of his letter to Mr. Cozzens on "Garrick; his portrait in New York, its Artist and History," which was printed in an edition of one hundred copies in 1857, and which he thought would be more to my taste.

The two portraits which he mentions are the only ones ever painted of him, and of the latter as well as an incident connected with the letter on Garrick, the artist Huntington says, "I painted him twice, the last portrait which is thought the best is now in the possession of his son and was sent to Paris for the Exposition. It was really the completion of the original study for the first, which I kept for many years in my study unfinished because several of the members of the Sketch Club, (which met at my studio) while the portrait was in progress urged me not to touch it but to begin another. Mr. Verplanck was writing the Garrick Sketch at the time and one day he said to me, 'I have spoken of Jarvis as a Reynolds vulgarizer, I am afraid it is too strong an expression. I don't like to speak so unkindly of my old friend, what shall I say, what do you think of it?' I suggested that he should change it to a negative and say 'an unrefined Reynolds' which you will observe he adopted. His Inquiry and his reception of the hint from a man so much his junior was characteristic. He was very gentle and attractive in his social life, passionately fond of portraits of historic or artistic interest, and never wearied of talking of the great portrait painters Reynolds, Stuart, Sulley and Jarvis."

The two papers above referred to are perhaps the most agreeable and polished productions of Mr. Verplanck's pen, certainly of those that I have seen, unless with them may be classed his articles originally contributed to the "Wine Press," a monthly periodical edited by his friend Frederic S. Cozzens, to whom in the last years of his life he was much attached, taking great interest in his affairs both commercial and literary, and whom he was in the habit of seeing almost daily, and whose premature death he deeply mourned, entitled: "Was Champagne known to the ancients" and "Oxyptorian Wines," and subsequently republished in "The Sayings of Dr. Bushwacker and other learned men," which charming volume of humour, "To Hon. Gulian C. Verplanck, first President of the Century Club" is dedicated. The "Garrick" paper is a most delightful résumé of artistic and theatrical recollections and criticisms, while the "Twelfth Night" and the two vinous papers are as remarkable for the profound erudition they display on subjects about which little learning may be thought to be possible, as for the genial and refined humour which gently plays upon each page.

Mr. Verplanck's last literary work had, strange to say, a very close connection with his first, both in occasion and matter; it was an oration delivered July 4, 1867, at the laying of the corner-stone of the New Hall for the Tammany Society, or Columbian Order, in Fourteenth Street, New York. It is replete with entertaining recollections of the Tammany of his youthful days, and of those Sachems and "big men" who gathered around the original Wigwam, or Pigpen, as it was contemptuously called by its political adversaries; and none of these reminiscences are more graceful or pleasing than those spoken in the tributes to James Kirke Paulding and his friends the brothers John T. and William Irving. It was in connection with a new edition of one of Paulding's works, "The Bulls and the Jonathans" published some three or four years since, that I had the honor of having my name associated with Mr. Verplanck's, where in the preface the author acknowledges some slight assistance gladly rendered to him. In a letter received from the editor of his father's works Mr. William I. Paulding, since Mr. Verplanck's decease, in speaking of one occasion when he called upon him for some information in regard to "The Bulls and the Jonathans," says, "I was surprised then at

the quickness with which (when suddenly in this way) he disinterred the facts of fifty years or so before."

Mr. Verplanck's public positions were many and important. Appointed one of the Regents of the University of the State of New York January 26, 1826, he became Vice-Chancellor in 1866, and when in 1844, the State Library was placed under the care of this faculty he was appointed Chairman of the Library Committee. Of the New York Historical Society he was at the time of his death first Vice-President as also its senior member, having been elected in 1809, five years after its organization. In its proceedings he always took a lively interest, and did not allow his early address to be his only contribution to its collections. At a special meeting held in May, 1858, he read a pleasant anecdotal sketch in the form of dialogue, entitled "Reminiscences of John Randolph of Roanoke," and when the society commemorated the two hundredth anniversary of the Conquest of New Netherlands he was made Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, and in that capacity offered a resolution of thanks to the accomplished historian Mr. Brodhead for his noble oration pronounced on the occasion. Four years later being the 50th anniversary of the delivery of his celebrated discourse, on the conclusion of an address by Mr. Motley, the annalist of the Rise of the Dutch Republic, Mr. Verplanck referred to the former occasion and said "that the pleasing duty of presenting a resolution of thanks to the orator of the evening had been assigned to him as the senior member of the Society, but what was thus made his duty he thought he might safely claim as a right in view of the fact that half a century ago he had delivered an anniversary address before the society;"—and Mr. Bryant in seconding the resolution said, "It is fitting also that my old friend of more than forty years, who in 1818, the exact term of half a century since delivered before this society when De Witt Clinton was its President, one of the noblest public discourses that was ever listened to in this or any other country—it was fitting that one so distinguished should rise to express in words what we all feel in our hearts."

For nearly sixty years Mr. Verplanck was one of the Trustees of the New York Society Library and at the time of his death Chairman of the Board, while from 1837 to 1842, he was President of the St. Nicholas Society, with Washington Irving as first Vice-President, and again in 1858 and '59 occupied the same position. He was a man eminently genial and social in his disposition, and was a member of a society famous in its day, which met at Baker's City Tavern at the corner of Wall and New Streets, called "The House of Lords," of which Preserved Fish and Jarvis the painter were prominent members. He was also a member of Fenimore Cooper's Lunch the celebrated Bread and Cheese Club, so called from the nature of the ballots used, one of cheese having the fatal effect of a black ball.

During Mr. Verplanck's long life, he was never confined to the house a single day by sickness, and never paid for a doctor's visit to himself. As has been mentioned, he attended the regular weekly meeting of the Commissioners of Emigration, the Wednesday before his decease, and did not complain of feeling indisposed until the next day, when he felt some inconvenience from a cold he had taken several days before, but as was his wont, paid no particular attention to it. Early the next morning, Friday, March 18th, he expired as calmly and with as little suffering as had been spent his entire life. The funeral services took place at old Trinity, of which he was elected a vestryman in 1843, and Warden twenty years later, on Monday, March 21st, at one o'clock, in the afternoon, which was participated in by the Bishop of the Diocese, and the rector and clergy of the Parish; the Rev. Dr. Dix preaching the funeral sermon. At the close of the services the remains were taken to his old home on the Hudson, where the services begun at Trinity were concluded, the next day. He was buried in the grounds of the old Episcopal Church at Fishkill Village, which was built in 1765, and where he was most fond of worshiping during his lifetime. Thus ended a life extended far beyond the days allotted upon Earth to man by the Psalmist, and one during which every hour seems to have had its particular work and to have brought forth a rich result. His literary labors were acknowledged by his Alma Mater in 1821, by appointing him one of her trustees, and in 1835, by conferring upon him her degree of LL. D.

"Mr. Verplanck," says his son, "was amazingly methodical in his habits, never allowing anything to be done for him that he could do himself, even to the most minute particulars.

have held a large estate for several generations. I have often seen him under the shade of a rock overhanging the Hudson, or in some shady dell by the side of a brook, with his book, enjoying the quiet scene around him.

"In conversation he was never loud or talked for display, but was often most agreeable, especially when he met with old friends whose pursuits and tastes were congenial to his. I remember when Washington Irving first came from Europe, on a Sunday shortly after his return, Mr. Verplanck and my brother Ogden Hoffman unexpectedly dropped in to dinner. My sister Mrs. Annie Nicholas, was at home. All of them had been most intimate from their early years; Verplanck and Irving had studied law with my father. Verplanck had married my aunt, and Irving had been engaged to my sister who had died while still young. Mrs. Nicholas was a contemporary, Ogden much younger. Irving had not seen them for many years and it was as if their youth had returned to them again. Irving with boyhood's freshness related his European experience, gave sketches of the noted men he had met, Talleyrand, Moore, Scott, and others, and described the most amusing scenes, often imitating the manner of its actors. Verplanck was full of humor and information. The dinner was not much—if eating was considered—scarcely enough, no one however thought of that; the hours fled unnoticed; we sat down at two and it was late before any one thought of moving. Mr. Verplanck was fond of all old time customs, and celebrated Christmas with his grandchildren in the good old way. The Yule log was burned, the Boar's head adorned the table, the house was strung with green boughs, and Santa Claus (Kris Kringle,) left his presents in appropriate costume. The family and their friends gathered until the house was full, and if more came room was found for them and everything was done to have a jolly good old time. I regret that I can furnish so little about a man I so much admired. To most he was known by his literary efforts as a writer of far more than ordinary merit; among his friends he was a great man, simple in his tastes and unassuming in his manners; his information on all subjects far exceeded what many will find in a life's experience: this he freely gave, and any one could profit by associating with him. I do not believe that any one at any time, could have gathered from his discourse anything that could be repeated to his disadvantage. He always seemed to me to be a man who in his life and character fulfilled all that is required by the 15th Psalm, 'of those who shall enter into the tabernacle of the Lord or rest upon his holy hill.'"

Mr. Verplanck had two sons; the eldest, William Samuel, born October 15, 1812, survives him, while the youngest, Gulian, born April 29, 1815, died early in life.

He would go about the streets at all hours amid the crowds of the day in Broadway and Wall Street, or return from his club at the latest hours of the night, and this he kept up until within a month or so of his death. He took great interest in the drama and was fond of talking of the actors of his younger days; of Fennell, Hodgkinson, Jefferson Wood, and others of the same stamp and time. He liked to discuss the styles of Kemble and Kean, and was an enthusiastic admirer of Rachel, and in the last years of his life was delighted with the acting of Ristori. With Mr. Hackett he was intimate, and always appreciated and esteemed him." Further on he says in the same letter, "with Albert Gallatin he was on most friendly terms, being in the habit of spending every Sunday evening at his house, during his residence in New York, in the last years of his life."

Mr. Verplanck was singularly reticent in speaking of himself or his history, and Mr. Bryant says in a letter to the writer, "I scarce ever knew so little of the early life of one whom I knew so well;" and this characteristic is endorsed by our own Dr. Allibone. Another of his characteristics, perhaps the strongest, was his love of country and of home, which he retained even to his latest days. His granddaughter before referred to, says: "I well remember one evening last summer, with what eagerness he seized a new school book of my youngest sister, 'Cleveland's English Literature,' and turning over the leaves exclaimed, 'Yes! it is here, one of my favorite poems by Montgomery, a very good writer, though now out of fashion.' Then turning to me, he said, 'hear me Eliza, I want to see if I remember it through, I have not seen it for thirty years,' and he then repeated it almost word for word, making only two or three omissions of words, and with as great feeling and emphasis as in his younger days. The poem is called 'The Love of Country and of Home,' beginning

"There is a land, of every land the pride,  
Beloved by heaven, o'er all the world beside."

In personal appearance he is said to have borne a striking resemblance to his father, and Poe in his generally scurrilous notices of the New York *Literati*, published in 1846, describes him as "short in stature, not more than five feet, five inches in height, and compactly or stoutly built. The head square, massive and covered with thick, bushy and grizzily hair; the cheeks are ruddy, lips red and full, nose short and straight, eyebrows much arched, eyes dark blue, with what seems to a casual glance a sleepy expression—but they gather light and force as we examine them. His scholarship is more than reputable and his taste and acquirements are not to be disputed." This it must be remembered was written nearly a quarter of a century ago, and that that time makes great changes in one's appearance, and his did not escape unscathed.

I cannot close this memorial of our deceased member's life, which has extended far beyond the limits I had laid down for it, in a manner more acceptable and agreeable than by transcribing the closing paragraphs of a letter written by his nephew, the son of his old preceptor in the law, Mr. George E. Hoffman of this city. He writes as follows: "Mr. Verplanck was remarkable for an even disposition. I never saw him lose his temper; he was always kind, considerate of others, and cheerful, and brought sunshine with him into the family circle. Though possessing humor and admiring it in others he could not endure any allusion that was broad or in the least bordering on indecency. When he was in the Senate of New York, I was at Albany, and heard of his rebuking a public officer, who attempted to tell in his presence such a story as many in high places deem amusing.

"Mr. Verplanck had great reverence for truth and never would restrain the expression of his opinions on all important political questions. He felt this to be his duty, and he fearlessly performed it without regard to policy or interest. Though his friends and family differed with him, they knew that he expressed the convictions of his heart and judgment, and no one of them even for a moment doubted his motives or his patriotism. He was a constant reader, and whatever he had read he always appeared to have at his command, even in the words of the author. He had a strong feeling for the beauties of nature and of art. In the enjoyment of these, in his books and his offices of benevolence to his fellow-men he seemed to pass a life untouched by care and apparently without a want. At Fishkill where the family

have held a large estate for several generations, I have often seen him under the shade of a rock overhanging the Hudson, or in some shady dell by the side of a brook, with his book, enjoying the quiet scene around him.

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